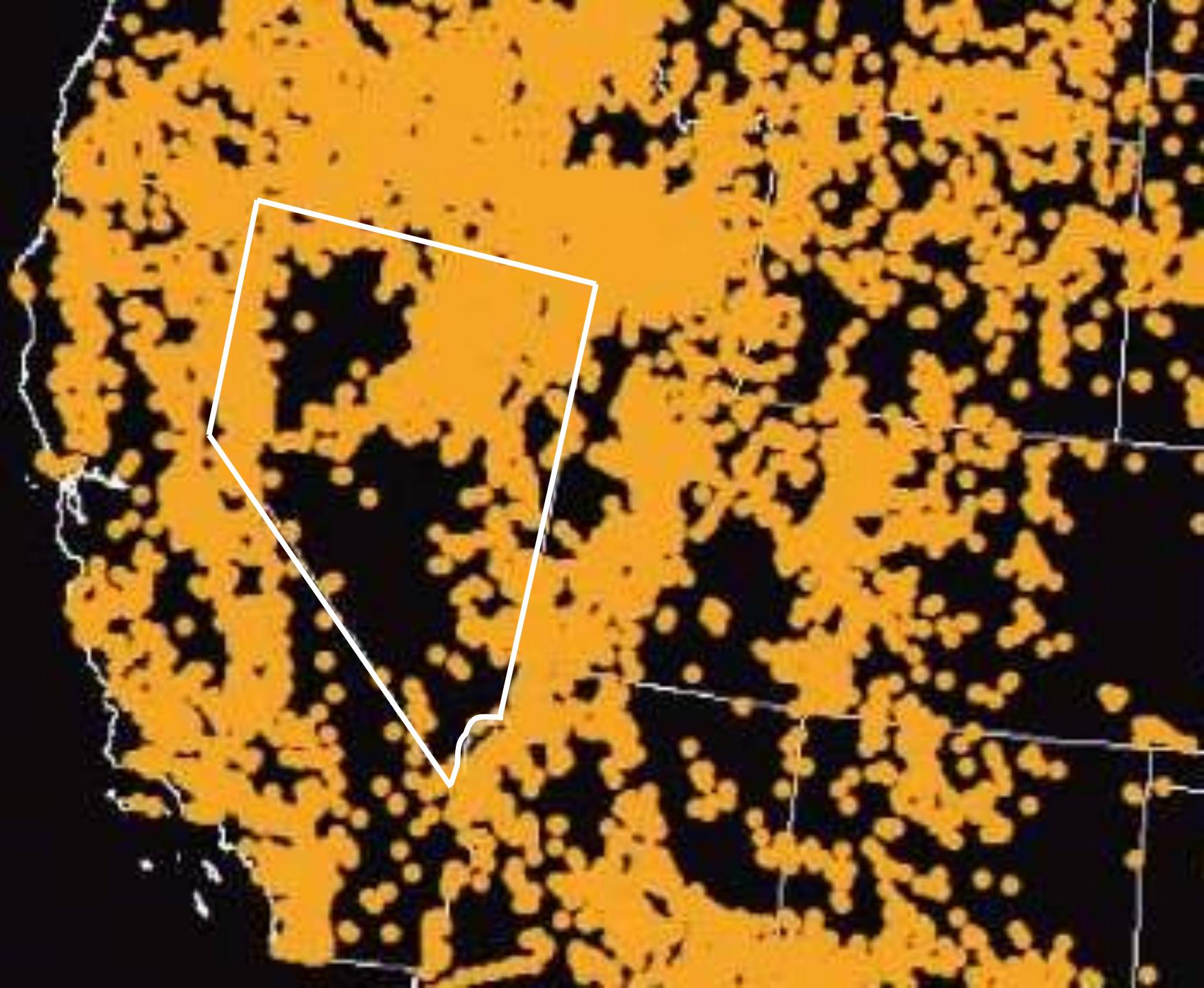
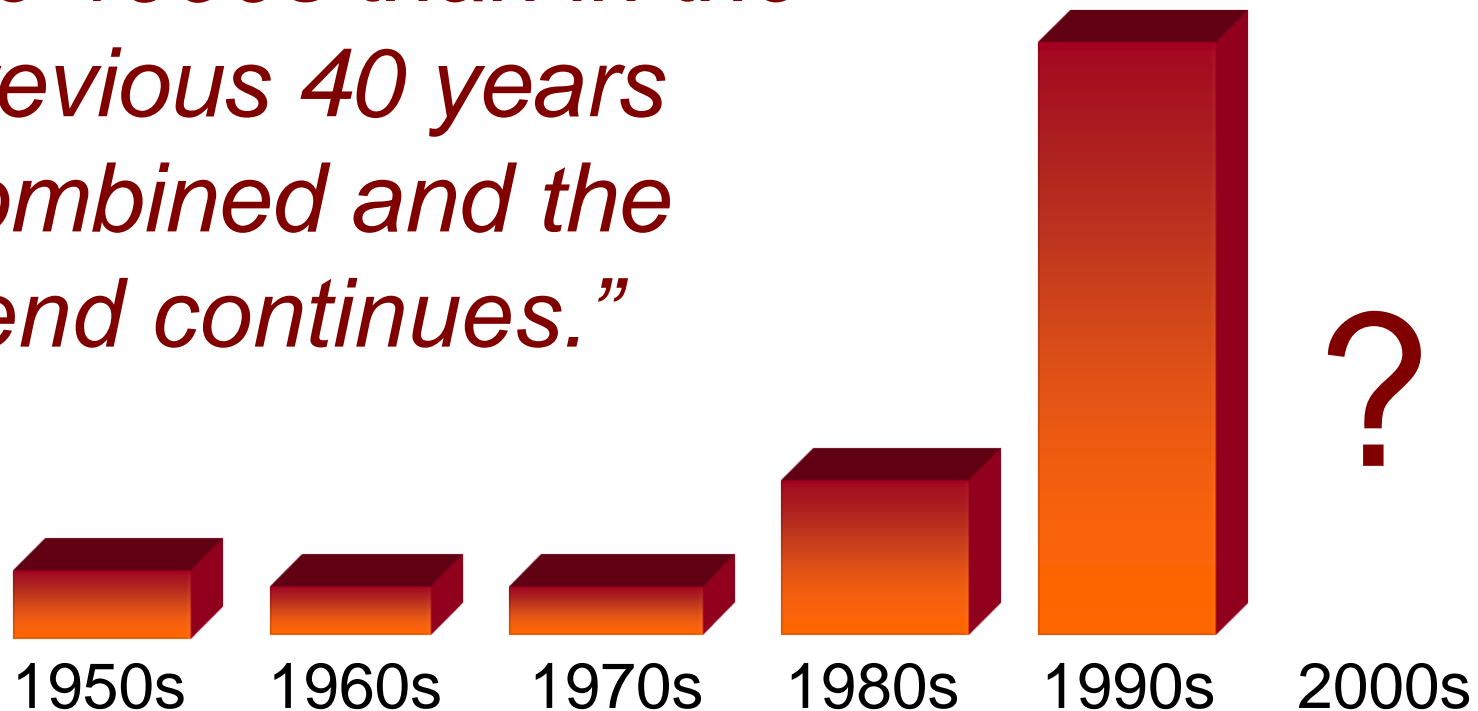


***Living With Fire***

# ***Wildfire Trends***

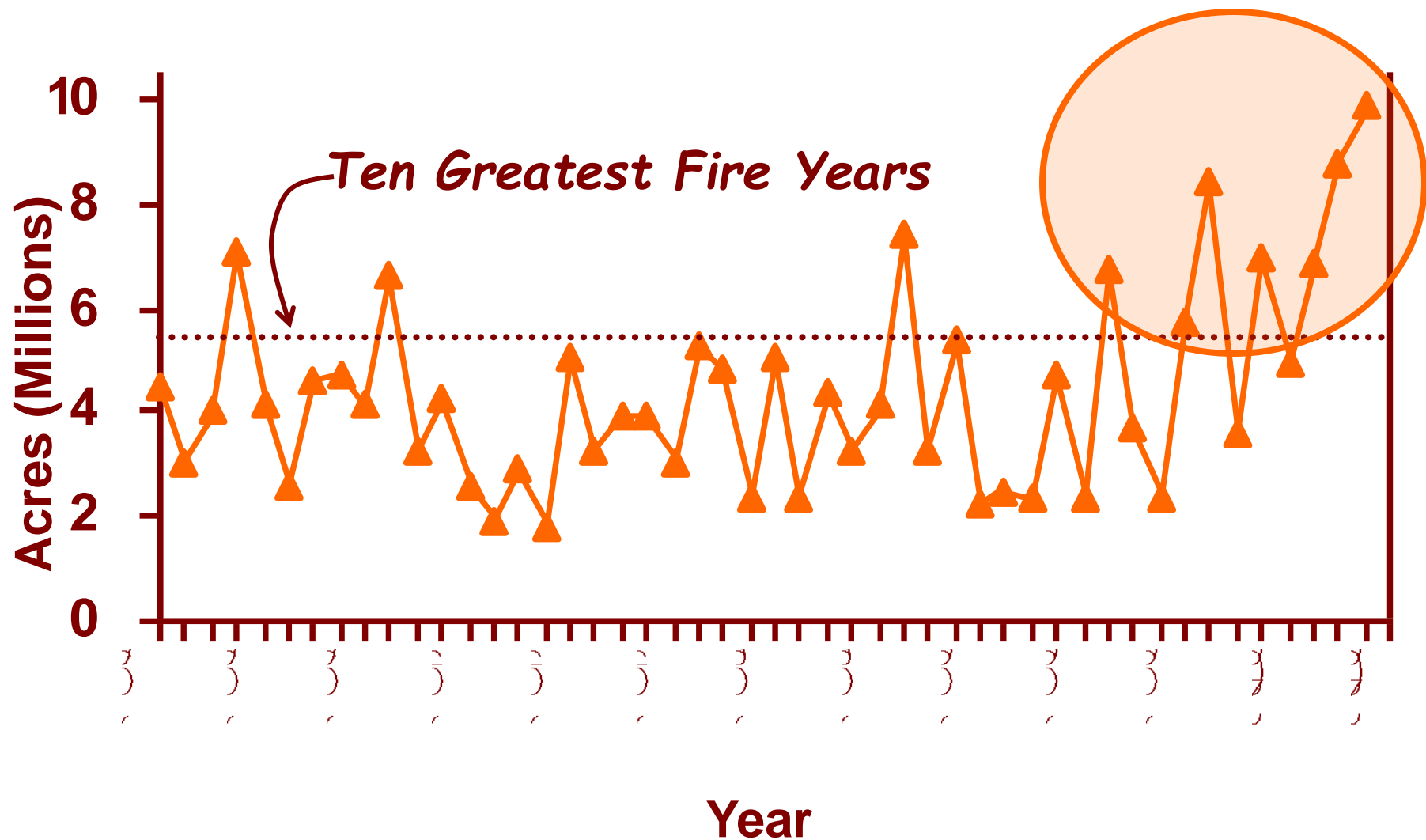


*“Nevada burned more acres in the decade of the 1990s than in the previous 40 years combined and the trend continues.”*



**Nevada Wildland Acres Burned by Decade**

# Total Wildland Fire Acres Burned (1960-2006)







## *Wildfire Fuels?*





*Wildland vegetation*



*Ornamental plants*



*Houses*



THE MARTIS FIRE | IN PERSPECTIVE

# Tahoe threat looms

Hot, dry weather puts basin at risk for fire



Martyn Newton/Reno Gazette-Journal

JUNE 21: Smoke settles over ridges during the Martis Fire, which came within about 2 miles of Incline Village.

## Experts call this year's danger unprecedented

This is the fourth in a five-day series.

By Jeff DeLong  
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

One hundred thirty years after Mark Twain allowed his campfire to escape control, starting a large wildfire on the shores of Lake Tahoe, the danger of flames consuming this natural wonder has only increased.

Millions of people come to the lake each year, and the nearly 100,000 people who live there are congested during the summer months and times of trouble.

Around the lake, more and more homes are built in areas of unhealthy trees and where more people are playing in the woods, the situation could be explosively dangerous — perhaps more so now than ever, fire officials said. Record dry conditions have fueled more fires earlier in the season than Tahoe firefighters say they can remember.

The blazes are bigger, too. The Martis Fire, which

### Fire danger around Lake Tahoe

People have long worried over the potential of catastrophic wildfires in the Lake Tahoe Basin, particularly in neighborhoods that come in close contact with heavily timbered areas. Record dry conditions are producing dangerous conditions this summer, with far more and far larger fires burning during the month of June than normal.



**Tahoe-area fires in June**  
Martis Fire: 14,500 acres. Started June 17; containment expected this weekend.  
Cause: Suspected escaped campfire.  
Tahoe Vista Fire: 5 acres.

### ABOUT THIS SERIES

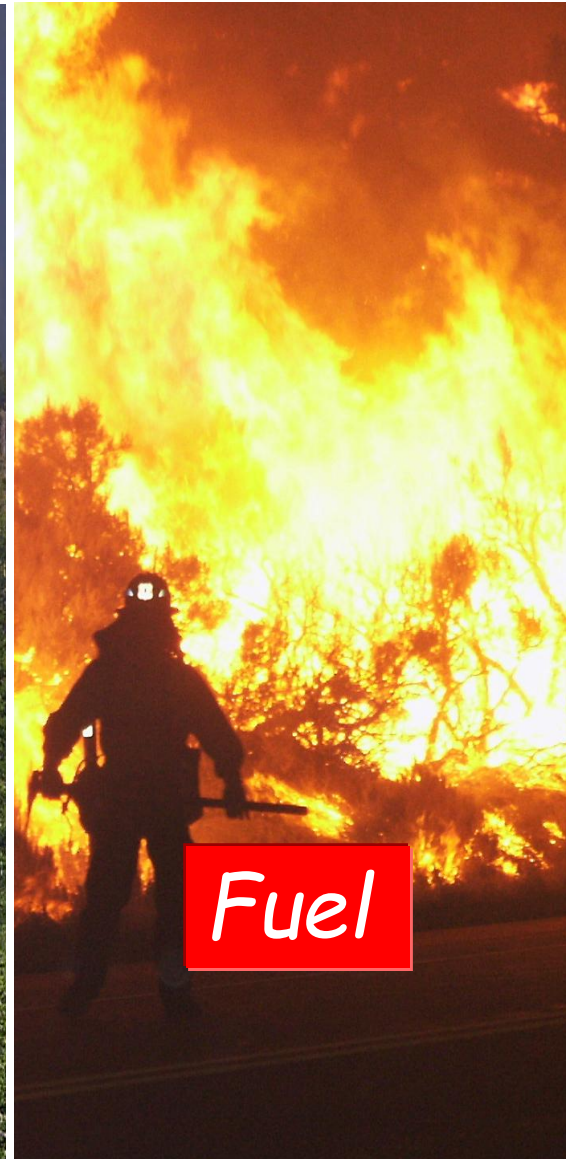
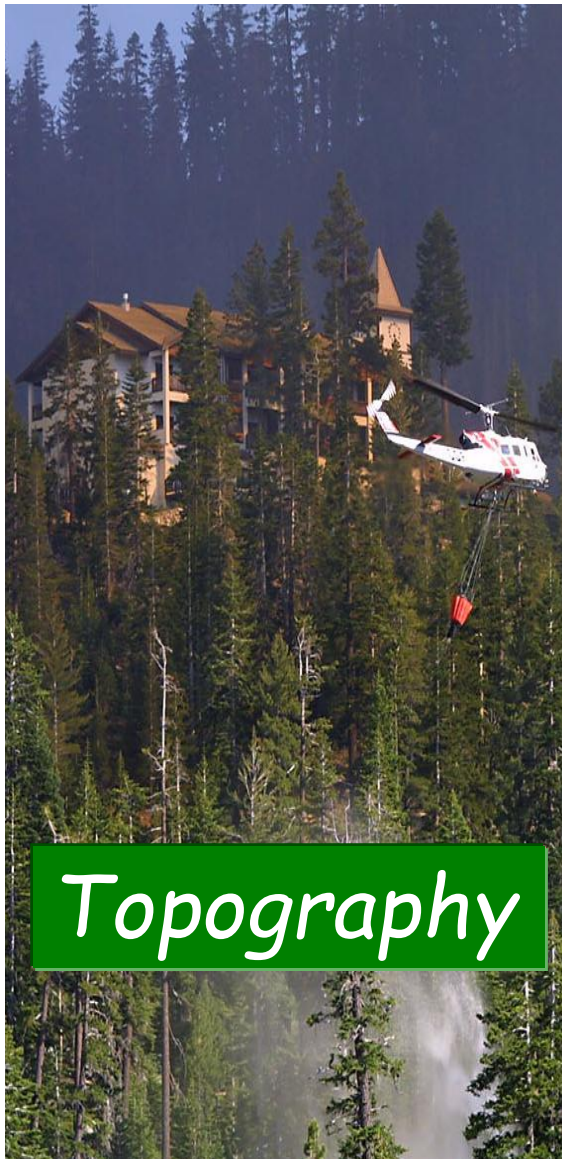
**Coming Monday:** How firefighters saved a log cabin along the Truckee River.  
**Past days:** Read previous stories, including a two-part hour-by-hour account of how the blaze was fought, at [www.RGJ.com](http://www.RGJ.com)

stayed on paper this time, but the area might not be so lucky the next time smoke

Weather

Topography

Fuel



*Living With Fire*





## *Change fuels by...*

- *Reducing the amount*
- *Shortening the height*
- *Increasing the moisture content*
- *Decreasing the continuity*
- *Locating properly*

*By changing the fuels,  
wildfires will...*

- *Be less likely to start*
- *Burn more slowly*
- *Burn cooler*
- *Have shorter flames*
- *Burn for a shorter time*



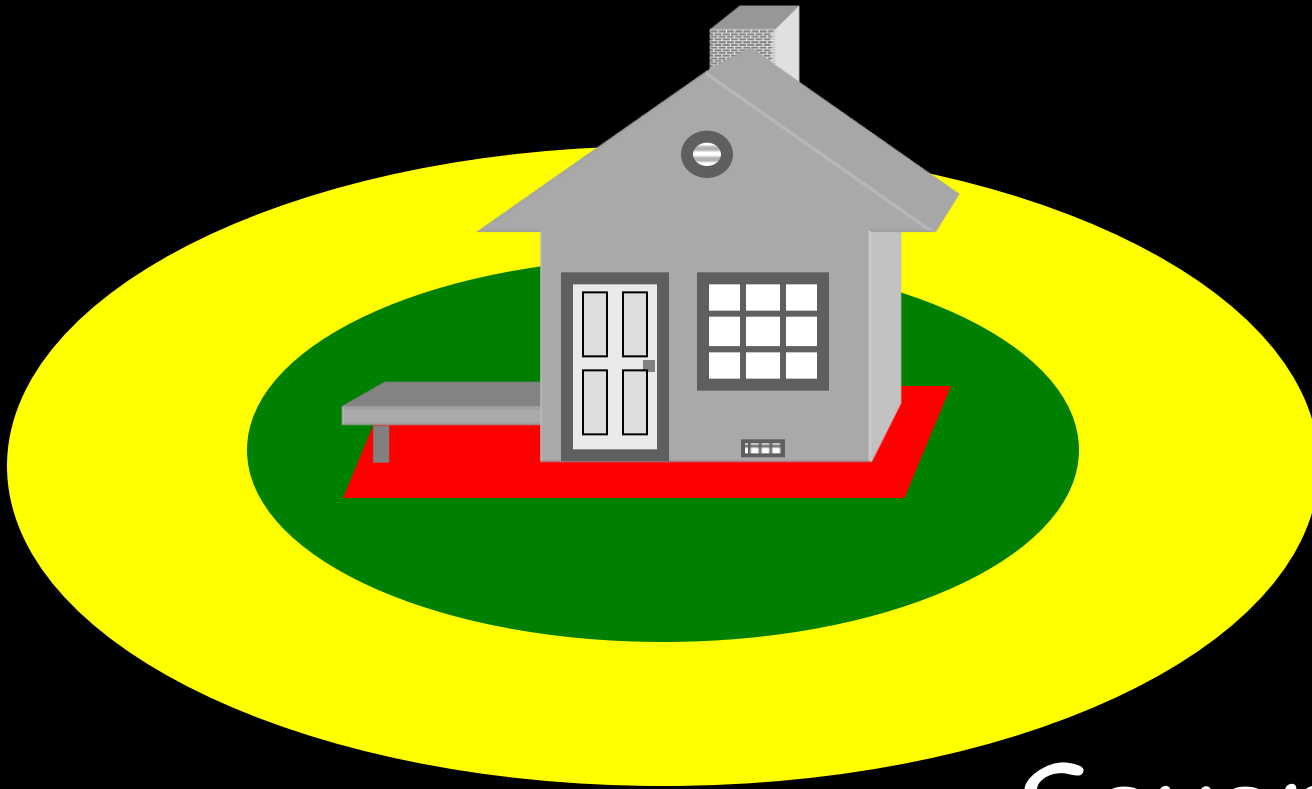
***Important!*** The fuel characteristics of the house and the adjacent vegetation often determine house survivability



***Important!** The homeowner is the most important person in preventing the house from being destroyed by wildfire*

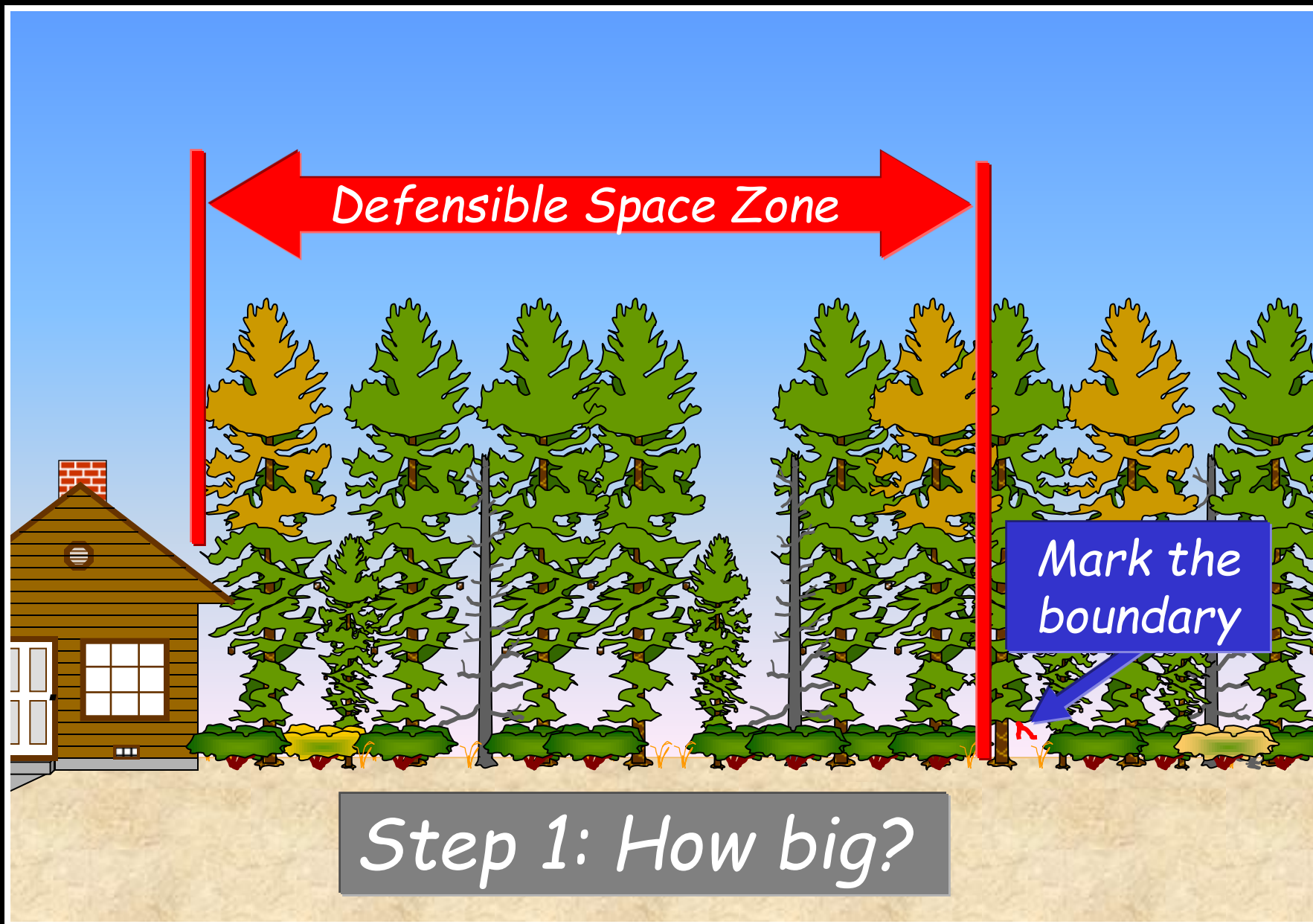


*Photo courtesy of the Nevada Appeal*



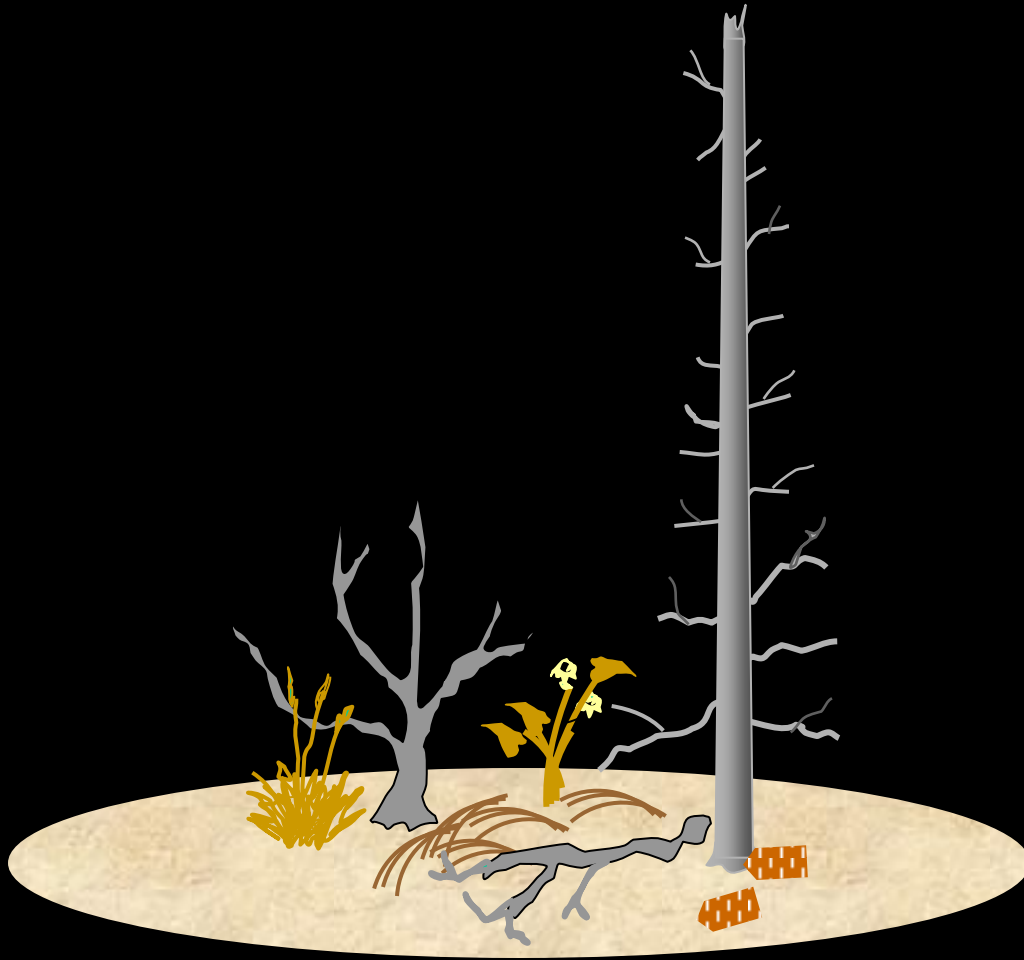
# *Seven Steps to Defensible Space*





# *Dead ornamental shrubs...*

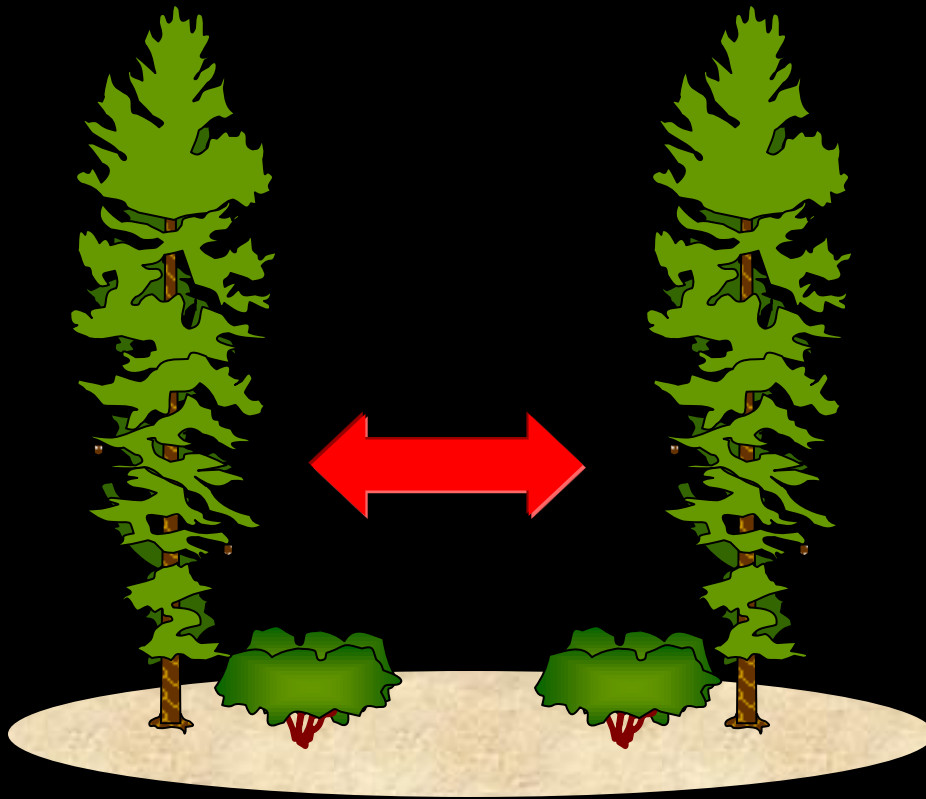




Step Two:

Is there  
any dead  
vegetation?



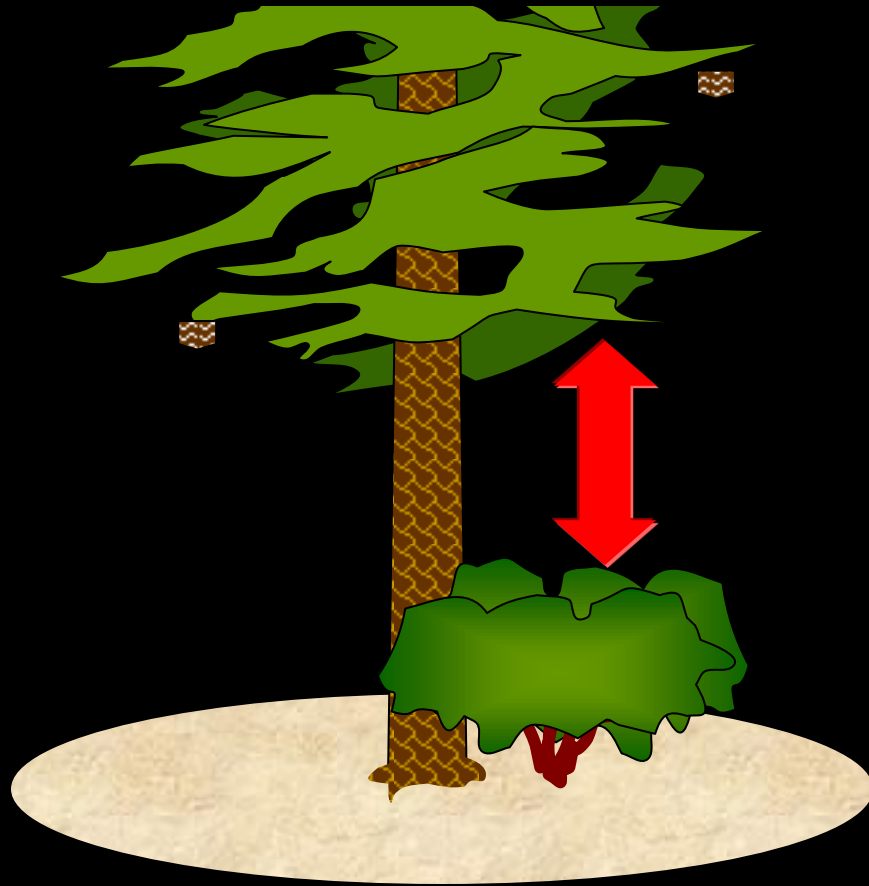


Step Three:

*Is there  
a separation  
between trees and shrubs?*



Step 3: Separation



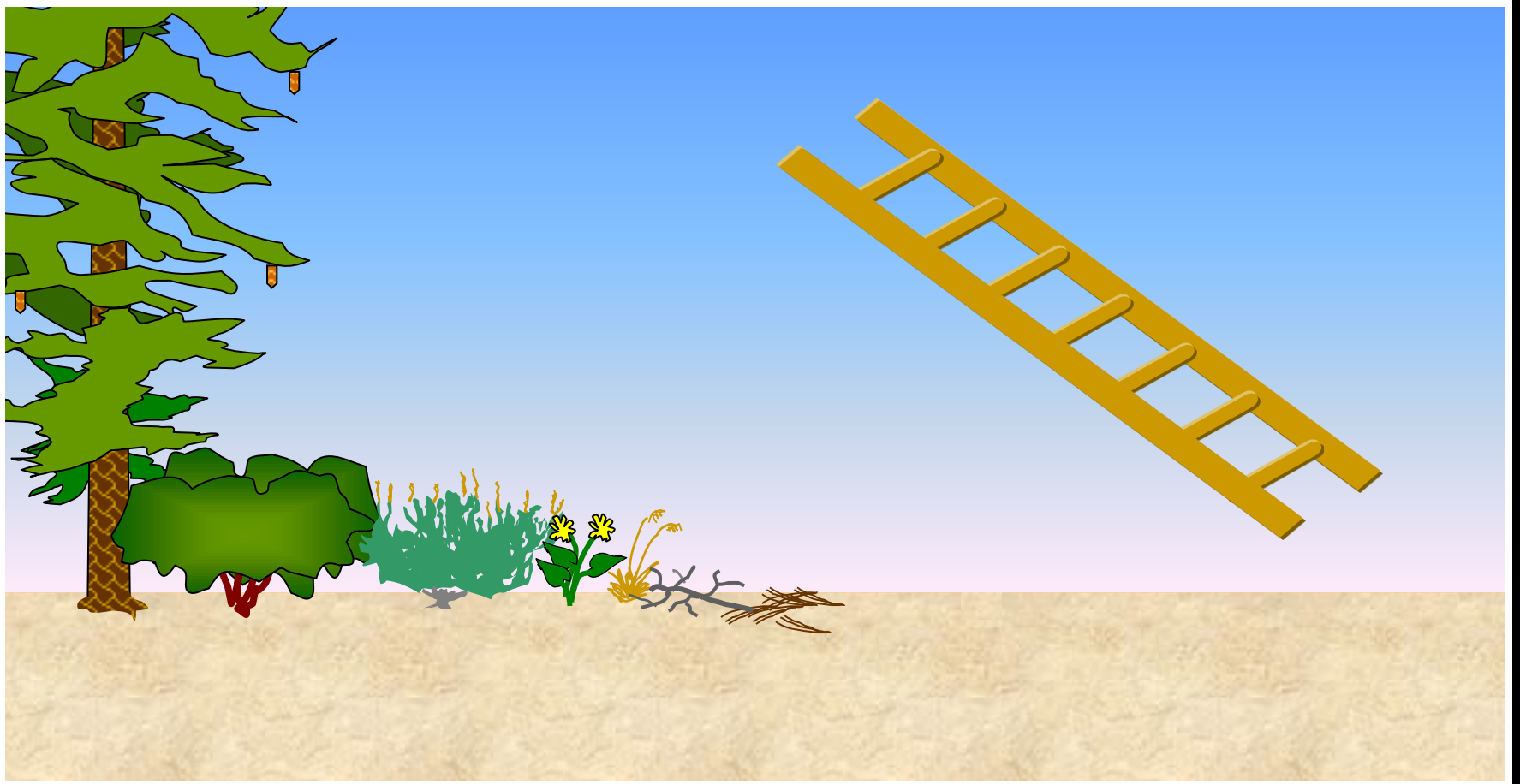
Step Four:

*Is there  
a separation  
between tree canopies  
and lower growing plants?*

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# *Ladder fuels...*





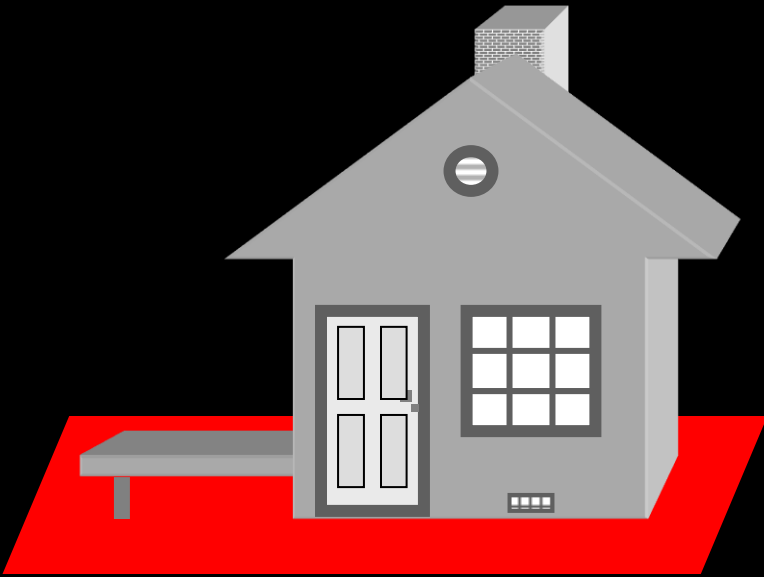
Step Five:

*Is there a  
Lean, Clean and Green Area  
extending 5 to at least 30 feet?*

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# Lean, Clean and Green Area Goals

- *Prevent ignitions from flying embers*
- *Reduce fire intensities so the house cannot ignite*
- *Not provide a means for fire to rapidly travel across the area*

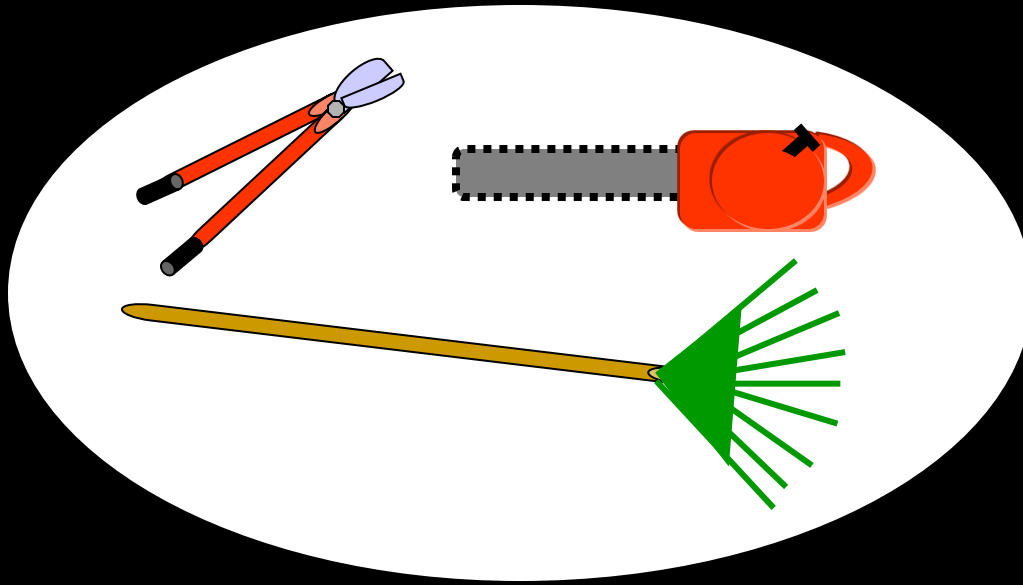


Step Six:

*Is there a  
Noncombustible Area  
within 5 feet?*

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## Step Seven:

*Is the area  
maintained on  
a regular basis?*

*The End...*

